

The City Council provides policy direction for developing and sustaining the health, safety and well being of the community. The City Manager's Office implements the policy directives into programs and services in an efficient and responsive manner.

Overview

The City Council exercises its authority through the enactment of laws, the adoption of the annual budget, the approval of contracts and specific projects and the approval to pursue grant funds to assist with the vision of the City. The City Manager's duties include: submitting the annual budget, advising the City Council on matters affecting the City, administering and overseeing City operations and appointing and removing City personnel.

Finance and Operations

The General Fund supports the operations of the City Council and City Manager's Office, with personal services accounting for 85 percent of the 2003 operating budget. City Council budget reflects salary increases for the Council Members and Mayor in accordance with the new City ordinance. Funding continues for the leadership positions Council members hold with the National League of Cities and other key governmental associations.

The **City Council** establishes policy direction for the City by enacting ordinances, laws, and policies, adopting the budget, levying taxes, and appointing members to the District Advisory Boards (DAB) and other citizen advisory boards and commissions. The seven-member Council is elected to four-year terms on a nonpartisan basis with staggered terms of office. Six Council members are elected by district, and the Mayor is elected at-large.

Key successes of City Council efforts are lowering the electric rates for Wichita citizens and bringing lowfare air service to Wichita. Eastbound AirTran began service in May 2002 and westbound Frontier began service in September 2002.



Mayor welcoming AirTran to Wichita.

The City Council meets every Tuesday in the Council Chambers and workshops are held for an in-depth study of projects and issues on the fourth Tuesday. Official action is not initiated at workshop sessions. A remodel of the City Council Chambers and offices was completed in 2001. The remodel incorporates state-of-the-art technology for the presentation of agendas and reports; provides better accessibility for disabled citizens; improves the quality and functions of the sound system; and provides a more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing environment for citizens, Council members and City staff.

The City Council coordinates efforts and establishes relationships with other elected officials at all levels of government. Members of the Council represent the City in several national and international organizations. In 2000, the Mayor was named "Municipal Leader of the Year" by the *American City and County*

magazine and served as the President of the National League of Cities. The Mayor remains active in the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and Public Technology Incorporated.

Wichita is an active participant in the Sister Cities International program. The program's goals include enriching community life through exhibits, tours, and exchanges, providing a setting for meeting community leaders from cities around the world, creating opportunities for cultural activities and exchanges, providing host families for visitors from Wichita's Sister Cities and supporting student exchange programs for students from Wichita's Sister Cities.

Wichita's Sister Cities are Tlalnepantla and Cancun, Mexico; Orleans, France; and Kaifeng, China. Council members represent the City both when receiving visitors and when visiting Sister Cities.

The **City Manager's Office** has primary responsibility for the responsiveness to citizens, one of its most prominent responsibilities. Numerous citizen contacts are handled each day in the City Manager's Office, ranging from telephone and electronic mail inquiries to faxes. On average, the Manager's Office receives 250 telephone contacts, 100 faxes, and 100 letters and e-mails per day from citizens and business people requesting information or assistance.

The City Manager continually assesses the growing needs of the community to determine if adequate services are available. Numerous public agencies, local organizations and businesses collaborate with the City Manager's office regarding current and potential service needs.

Every year, the City Manager establishes priorities as communicated by Council and directs the Finance Department in the development of a budget that is submitted to Council for adoption. The annual budget is a tool utilized to allocate funding for new programs and services, eliminate ineffective programs and services and expand existing programs and services to better meet the changing needs of the community.

National League of Cities

The City has a long history of active participation and leadership with the National League of Cities. In 2000, the Mayor served as the President of the National League of Cities and initiated a campaign to promote Racial Justice.

Council members currently serve in the following capacity:

- Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee
- Human Development Streeting Committee
- Finance Committee
- Board of Directors

The central focus of the National League of Cities (NLC) is to be an advocate for the interests of U.S. Cities and Towns with the Federal Government. The NLC represents approximately 18,000 cities nationwide.

Legislative activities involve a continuous effort to inform NLC members of pending action by the Federal Government that have implication for cities and towns. Current advocacy priorities include:

- Protecting the Homeland
- Sustaining federal support for critical municipal programs
- Protecting local revenues and taxing authority
- Ensuring racial justice and equality
- Investing in children
- Balancing international trade agreements with local authority

The Customer Service initiative began in 2001 to revitalize City employees' focus on the quality of service provided to the citizens continues in 2002. The goal is to ensure that citizens and customers receive "Above and Beyond" customer service while doing business with the City.

The City Manager's Office assists Mayor and City Council with special projects and research. Current projects in which the staff is involved are:

- Developing and implementing a new Joint Nuisance Code.
- Marketing Wichita's tourism attractions in partnership with the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Spearheading the "Don't Trash Wichita" initiative, a four-part strategy for cleaning up the City that includes tougher penalties, litter prevention and education, and community involvement.
- Coordinating the operations of the new Neighborhood City Halls, one in each quadrant of the City. The first Neighborhood City Hall opened in September 2001, with the goal to become more connected and responsive to neighborhood and citizens needs.

Additional duties include the preparation of agendas for weekly Council meetings, the staffing of various boards, commissions, and task forces, and the oversight of all departments' programs and activities.

Highlights

- ✓ Continuation of the Customer Service initiative to revitalize the City employees' focus on the quality of service provided to the citizens.
- ✓ Better align staffing to reflect responsibilities associated with positions.
- ✓ Two new neighborhood city halls will open in 2003 and improve citizen access to their Council representative and other city services.

City Council/City Manager Department Budget Summary					
	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2002 Revised	2003 Adopted	2004 Approved
Personal Services	748,240	906,130	853,610	899,820	913,630
Contractual Services	151,277	153,480	152,570	149,460	153,200
Commodities	25,635	25,050	25,050	25,050	25,050
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	5,300	0	7,750	7,750
Total Local Expenditures	925,152	1,089,960	1,031,230	1,082,080	1,099,630
City Council	383,299	548,580	532,270	578,040	588,170
City Manager's Office	541,853	541,380	498,960	504,040	511,460
General Fund	925,152	1,089,960	1,031,230	1,082,080	1,099,630
Grant Resources	0	0	70,180	0	0
Total full-time positions	16	17	15	15	15
Total part-time positions	0	0	0	0	0
Total FTE positions	16	17	15	15	15



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